

# **October 15** **HOME FIRE** **DRILL DAY**

**Get out your stopwatches**, because it's time for a two-minute home fire drill. Home fires are more common than many parents realize, but only a fraction of families have an escape plan. Teach your kids what to do when a smoke alarm goes off in an emergency. Half of parents say their kids don't know what to do if their smoke alarm goes off, and even fewer families say they regularly practice a home fire drill.

**October 15th is the day we take action** and teach kids what to do when they hear a beeping smoke alarm.

First, **TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARM** by pressing the test button. Replace batteries if there is no alarm sounding. Then, **MAKE A PLAN** and **PRACTICE IT!**

## **MAKE A PLAN!**

- Draw a floor plan for each floor of your home, including windows and doors. For each room, find two ways out, and label them on your plan.
- Designate one adult to help get babies, young children, or family members who need extra help out safely. Have a back-up plan in case the primary person is overcome by smoke, or is not home.
- Decide on a safe meeting place for your family. Make sure it is a safe distance away from the home.
- Teach your child to get low and crawl on the ground, where the air is less smoky.
- Show your child how to use the back of his hand to check doors for heat before opening. Teach them to use a different way out if the door is hot to the touch.
- Children can become scared and confused during emergencies, so teach them to never hide from firefighters.
- Teach children to NEVER go back inside a burning building. Once they are out, stay out!
- Explain that if they do catch fire, they need to stop, drop and roll.



# Home Fire Escape Plan



Use the graph to draw your home's floor plan, and plot your home fire escape routes.

## Tips for creating and practicing your escape plan:

- Everyone in your household should know *two ways* to escape from each room in your home.
- Decide where to meet once you get outside.
- If a fire starts, you may have just **two minutes** to get to safety. Time your fire drills and find out: what's your escape time?  
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- Smoke is dangerous. Practice crawling low to stay under the smoke.
- Teach household members what to do if their clothes catch fire: stop, drop and roll.

If a fire starts in your home, get out to safety, then dial 911. Or call your fire department's emergency phone number:

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